



NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC RELIABILITY COUNCIL

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Power Outage Update — 8/16/2003 11 a.m. EDT

The bulk electric transmission system in the United States and Canada has been restored and is operating reliably. Many of the generating units that tripped off line during the outage have returned to service and additional generating units are expected to return to service over the weekend. Virtually all customers have been returned to electric service, although some customers will continue to experience rotating outages due to generating capacity availability. Some rotating outages may also be necessary on Monday depending on the status of the generating units returning to service and the electrical demand.

“NERC is conducting a thorough investigation into this event in conjunction with the regional reliability councils and their member utilities, and in coordination with federal, state, and provincial agencies,” stated Michehl R Gent, NERC president and CEO. “We will publicly report our findings as soon as possible. Please understand that we need to collect a great deal of additional data and information before we are able to draw definitive conclusions about the root causes of this outage,” he stressed.

A number of key transmission lines and generators tripped out of service in the ECAR, PJM, and NPCC NERC Regions during this event. Initial information about these facilities is posted on the NERC website. More complete and explanatory data will be posted as it becomes available. NERC will continue to evaluate and analyze the situation over the next several days as utilities continue to work to assess and restore their systems.

NERC is a not-for-profit company formed as a result of the Northeast blackout in 1965 to promote the reliability of the bulk electric systems that serve North America. NERC works with all segments of the electric industry as well as customers to “keep the lights on” by developing and encouraging compliance with rules for the reliable operation of the electric grid. NERC membership comprises ten Regional Reliability Councils that account for virtually all the electricity supplied in the United States, Canada, and a portion of Baja California Norte, Mexico. For more information about NERC go to www.nerc.com.